Break-In Amazes McGovern Aide Put in S.S. file

Agnew's Neighbor Raided

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By Bob Woodward
Washington Post Staff Writer

On the night of July 27, two Secret Service agents and a Sheraton Park Hotel security aide broke into a hotel apartment occupied by Max Factor III and his wife.

The $1,150-a-month apartment is directly above that of Vice President Spiro Agnew. Factor happens to be working for George McGovern.

"I couldn't believe it," Factor, one of the heirs to the family cosmetic fortune, said. "Three men broke into our apartment. It was five minutes to 10 at night. My wife and I were on the bed. We weren't in a compromiing position, but we could have been."

Paul Sipple, resident manager of the Sheraton Park, said yesterday the break-in was a mistake. He said that Factor registered at the hotel one or two days before he was expected, and the Secret Service had not been informed that someone was moving in—as is required for all rooms adjacent to Agnew.

"The Secret Service heard a noise in the apartment above, so they call security. You and I wouldn't be awed by the Secret Service, but our security man was, and he just went along with them."

Apparently they forgot to check with the desk, where they could have found that Factor had registered, Sipple said. He said the hotel has apologized to the Factors.

The agents and a hotel security man entered Factor's apartment with a key, but apparently without knocking.

See FACTOR, A12, Col. 1

By Matthew Lewis—The Washington Post

MAX FACTOR III . . . he plans to stay

McGovern Aide Raided In Home Above Agnew

FACTOR, From A1

Factor, 26, is a Los Angeles lawyer here indefinitely as a voter registration organizer for McGovern.

The apartment in which the Factors now live was occupied by former Treasury Secretary John Connally until several months ago.

Factor said yesterday that he's staying, despite what he says appears to be a concerted plan to drive him out. He said it began when the hotel actually discouraged him from moving in even after he had signed the lease.

In addition, Factor said he suspects someone has visited his apartment while he and his wife were away. "Once the lights were on when we came back. They were off when we left," he said.

Edward Kissane, assistant to the Sheraton Park general manager, said yesterday that it just isn't a good idea to have a McGovern worker and the Vice President so close to each other.

Kissane said general manager Nordean L. Schwiebert fears a possible bugging attempt similar to the one at Democratic national headquarters where five men were arrested June 17.

"It happened at Democratic headquarters, and there is nothing to prevent it here," Kissane said.

Another high-ranking hotel official, who asked that his name be withheld, said it is the Secret Service and not the hotel that fears a bugging attempt.

Victor Gold, the vice president's press secretary, denied this and said yesterday that it is a matter between Factor and the hotel.

Gold said that Agnew is "not particularly concerned about "the break-in at Factor's apartment.

"It's unfortunate, like rain coming in through a window. There was no intent on the part of the vice president or people working for him.

"If they (the Secret Service) hear a noise above the vice president's apartment in a supposedly empty apartment, I would hope they would check immediately.

"Had the Secret Service known it was occupied, quite obviously they would have knocked."

"Any apology would have to come from the management; the Secret Service was just doing their job," Gold said.

But Factor counters by saying:

"I do wonder whether they are asking us to move under the auspices of the International Telephone and Telegraph Co. (ITT), owners of Sheraton, you know, or of the vice president.

"I have a sense of privacy and resent someone breaking in. They might have rung us up on the phone and put a guard at the door so we couldn't escape if they suspected something."

During the break-in, Factor said, "one of Agnew's Secret Service agents flipped his badge at me and asked about John Connally. Well, anybody in Washington knows that Connally is gone. Another fellow looked like a maintenance man with a walkie-talkie, another fellow with a silly grin, as if he realized they shouldn't be there.

"In all," Factor said, "it's highly unlikely that the vice president directly has any knowledge of this. These people (Secret Service and hotel personnel) think they're doing a favor for him, but I'm sure he wouldn't condone this.

"We won't bug the vice president; they have my personal assurance."

Frank Mankiewicz, political coordinator for the McGovern campaign, said the incident raises the possibility that the Secret Service may have had former Treasury Secretary Connally's apartment bugged.

"It's awful difficult to hear noises in the Sheraton . . . unless you have sensitive microphones. I just don't think you can hear anything," Mankiewicz said.

Referring to the fact that Connally, a Texas Democrat, at one time was considered a possible replacement as the vice presidential candidate on the Republican ticket, Mankiewicz said: "I think that the former occupant (Connally) was more of a threat to the vice president than Mr. Factor."